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REVIEWS

History of the German Struggle for Liberty. By POULTNEY BIGELOW. Illustrated with portraits, in three volumes. Volume III. Pp. xvi, 343. Price, \$2.25. New York and London: Harper Brothers, 1903.

Those familiar with Mr. Bigelow's two previous volumes will not expect to find in this one a history in the usual sense of the word. Indeed the title of the third volume would correspond more closely to the context, if it read *Studies in the History of the German Struggle for Liberty*, for both the subject-matter and the treatment are far from being consistently that of a more serious history. In no particular is it like the ordinary histories of the period and least of all like the German works. At the outset Mr. Bigelow declares that it is his intention to sketch for the English reader an outline of "the Germany which gloried in the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, which soon thereafter sank into sullen apathy under the police administration of the Holy Alliance, and which finally took bloody vengeance for its outraged manhood by inaugurating the revolutions of 1848."

But even this does not describe the work. It is less a sketch than a number of sketches or essays of a biographical and anecdotal character, very loosely and disconnectedly strung together. The different portions of the book are not fashioned and moulded to the plan of the whole; Mr. Bigelow unfortunately does not apply his intimate knowledge of the subject to give us the larger, more comprehensive view. As a consequence the subject is very unevenly treated, the *lacunæ* being particularly striking in connection with the political and economic forces of the period. The author's partiality for the dramatic side of his story seems usually to have been the determining factor in the important question of selection. The life and aspirations of the heroes of 1848, the martyrs in the cause of Germany's democracy are excellently sketched; his narrative glows with enthusiasm as it treats of *Turnvater* Jahn, Reuter, Blum, and Kossuth. The representatives of reaction on the other hand are treated in Mr. Bigelow's most ironical vein. Only contempt is dealt out to the incapable Frederick William III.; he is never more than "the husband of Queen Louise."

The style, although replete with Mr. Bigelow's mannerisms, is clear, interesting and vivacious. Many of the pen-portraits are masterly, while the narrative carries the reader along easily and pleasantly. To the general reader, therefore, the volume will prove entertaining and suggestive. To the specialist, however, it will scarcely appeal as serious history, for besides the uneven, sketchy character of the work it is at times inaccurate and unreliable. There is also a proneness to introduce historical parallels drawn from conditions or events in other countries, particularly from the United States. Occasionally these are helpful, but they occur too frequently, often leading to much redundancy. Nor are the sallies of this sort always the most apt, as for example when *Turnvater* Jahn is pictured "as something of a cross between the illustrious Samuel Johnson and Paul Krüger" (p. 78).

There is no index despite the fact that this is the last volume of the work, and the value of the illustrations, many of them excellent, is lost because no reference to the source from which they are drawn accompanies the prints.

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Reciprocity. By J. LAURENCE LAUGHLIN, PH.D., and H. PARKER WILLIS, PH.D. Pages xi, 583. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Baker & Taylor Co., 1903.

A thorough treatment of the subject of reciprocity has been much needed. Although the discussion of the tariff has been subordinated to the consideration of the monetary questions for the last six years, the tariff is in no wise a past issue and is certain to be the most important question in national politics for several years to come.

The work recently published by Professor Laughlin, of the University of Chicago, and Professor Willis, of Washington and Lee University, is a comprehensive, historical, and analytical treatment of the reciprocity question as it has presented itself in the American tariff system. The volume contains a vast amount of information and is rich in historical and bibliographical material. It gives ample evidence of extensive research on the part of its authors. They have endeavored to do their work so that it need not be done again by subsequent investigators.

The volume, however, is not without defects. Unfortunately, the authors were not able to free themselves from partisan bias. The whole narrative is colored by the opinions of the writers. The book is not an impartial and objective treatment of the subject. It is, of course, a difficult matter to deal objectively with a question so controversial as reciprocity is, but the task is not an impossible one for the investigator whose purpose is simply to ascertain and set forth the facts, and to confine himself to the statement of only such conclusions as may unquestionably be deduced from the facts presented.

The book is, moreover, crude in literary form. The volume need not have been much more than one-half its present size. There is far too much quotation and too much paraphrasing. The extent to which the volume is made up of quotations may be illustrated by reference to Chapter VI., dealing with "Reciprocity and the McKinley Act." This chapter is thirty pages in length, and of the thirty pages, eleven and one-half are made up of quotation. Chapter XI., on "The Struggle for Reciprocity with Cuba," contains sixty-four pages, of which nearly twenty-two consist of quotation. Chapter V., on "The Sugar Situation," illustrates the extent to which the authors have made use of citations.

One of the most serious defects in the book is that the authors resort from time to time to imaginative history and to an explanation of personal and legislative acts by supposing the motives back of those acts. This is a